

Q R V ?



Spring, 2005

Volume 8, Number 4

Training and News for the Seattle Auxiliary Communication Service

Recruiting & Training News

ACS/SDART Field Exercise and Emergency Messaging Training Scheduled for May 14

By Mark Sheppard, N7LYE

Seattle ACS traditionally conducts a field exercise every fall. Last year we didn't. Instead we spent the winter developing a plan to revitalize our team. The key objectives: recruit, train and retain ACS members.

This spring we conducted a citywide direct mail campaign. The Police Chief and the Parks Superintendent mailed letters to over 2,225 hams inviting them to attend 13 community meetings to learn about the City's preparedness strategies and the important role of amateur radio volunteers. More than 100 hams attended and as a result we have 53 new members. We continue to receive new applications weekly. Our campaign was a big success. Special thank you to George Boswell, Matt Thomas, and Bill Dockstader for their dedication in attending and

participating in the majority of these meetings. Also thanks to Bill Elher, Dave Prince, Chris Osburn and several of our experienced members for attending and helping with the community meetings.

It is about Training

We are committed to providing support and training to our new team members. The first opportunity was the annual Communications Academy. Many of our new members attended the two day session at the Shoreline Conference Center April 2 and 3. They were joined by several of our tenured operators as well as E-com savvy hams from across the region. By all accounts, CommAcademy 2005 was another successful event offering a broad spectrum of E-com related infor-

mation as well as basic and advanced training in a wide range of practical, technical and administrative skill areas. (*See also CommAcademy, page 6*)

Field Exercise - purpose and training objectives

The next training event is the field exercise. This training is focused specifically on message handling skills for all new and experienced Seattle ACS members and applicants. The objective is to provide emergency radio operators with hands-on experience in these mission critical areas:

1. Interacting with communicator-runners from the SDART teams to clarify and prioritize emergency requests for assistance.

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QRV?



QRV? = "Are you prepared?"

QRV? is the Newsletter of the Seattle Auxiliary Communication Service, City of Seattle, Emergency Management

Seattle ACS Net

Meets weekly on Mondays at 7:00 p.m.—Bill Ehler K7NZV Net Manager
146.96 MHz PSRG repeater/-600 KHz offset/103.5 tone

Seattle ACS Frequency Plan

Program your radios so they always transmit the indicated tone. We rely on this for automatic access to supporting systems.

Check-in & Event Coordination Frequency

146.96 MHz repeater/-600 KHz offset/103.5 tone

*In case of repeater failure use 146.96 simplex with 103.5 tone. You will be assigned an operating frequency for passing traffic.
We want to keep the check-in and coordination frequency as clear as possible.*

Operating frequencies

These frequencies are to be used for passing message traffic between field posts and the Seattle EOC.

UHF repeaters: Primary System

443.650 MHz ACS-North repeater. Tone 141.3 Hz (Xmt and Rcv) Primary area served: Northeast and Northwest zones
443.000 MHz ACS-Central repeater. Tone 141.3 Hz (Xmt and Rcv) Primary area served: Central East and Central West zones
441.800 MHz ACS-South repeater. Tone 141.3 Hz (Xmt) Primary area served: Southeast and Southwest zones

VHF Simplex: Backup System

*ACS operates a north and south remote base that receives and transmits on our two designated simplex frequencies.
Tones are mandatory.*

146.56 MHz ACS-VHF North. Simplex. Tone 103.5 Hz (Xmt and Rcv)
Planned service area: Northwest, Northeast, and Central-East zones

147.58 MHz ACS-VHF South. Simplex. Tone 103.5 Hz (Xmt and Rcv)
Planned service area: Southwest, Southeast, and Central-West zones

Six Meter Repeater – used for special operations: 53.250, -1.7 MHz offset, MHz tone 100 Hz.

State & County Nets

Washington State Emergency meets Mondays at 5:30 p.m. Saturdays at 9:00 a.m. 3.985 MHz

King County ARES meets Sundays at 8:00 p.m. 146.82 MHz (tone 103.5)

Please direct inquiries about the Auxiliary Communication Service to:

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Please direct letters, articles, and inquiries about **QRV?** to the editor:

Peter Smith N7BYP (206) 284-2098, n7byp@arrl.net

ACS Website: www.cityofseattle.org/eoc/acs

From the Editor

A Sound Investment

We all know how hard it has been in recent years to find a sound investment. Most of the usual options have had their ups and downs. In spite of all this I'm here to tell you there is one investment, specifically an investment of your time, which will yield excellent returns. Guaranteed.

On Saturday morning, May 14, in cooperation with the city's SDART teams, we'll participate in an emergency communications drill. ACS operators will set up radio communication posts at several community centers throughout the city. We will receive messages from SDART communications personnel, evaluate the importance of those messages, and relay them to the Seattle EOC. This drill will provide important practice in station deployment, communications post organization, message handling, and net operations.

Here's where the sound investment comes into play. When you complete your participation in the drill late on Saturday morning take a few moments to stop and reflect on what just happened. What went well? What were problems? What suggestions would you have for improvement? *Write down your thoughts.* Sure, you can ask these same questions a few days later and you probably

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Mark's Message

By

Mark Sheppard, N7LYE

Topoff 3—A Great Opportunity to Observe and Learn

I had the opportunity and honor to be a member of a five person team sent by SPD's Emergency Preparedness Bureau to the TOPOFF-3 Terrorism Drill in New London Connecticut. Seattle was a primary site for the 2003 TOPOFF-2 exercise and gained considerable benefit from the experience and has committed to an ongoing plan of implementing improvements to our preparedness and response programs as a result of the lessons learned. Our team was asked to serve in the capacity of "data collectors" or evaluators.

There are many objectives of a complex drill such as the TOPOFF series. There are opportunities to test and evaluate specific practices such as deployment and management of urban search and rescue teams, on-scene command and logistics. However, the greater opportunity is in forming complex multi-jurisdictional event management structures. These are necessary and extremely challenging to best deploy resources from local and federal agencies as well as those imported from other areas of the country on mutual aid agreements. This is the clear priority for the Depart-

ment of Homeland Security (DHS) and is the primary reason for conducting TOPOFF Exercise: to provide an opportunity for multiple agencies, functions and jurisdictions to problem-solve, appropriately share command, and coordinate resources.

This is so important that DHS is developing NIMS – National Incident Management System and requiring that all jurisdictions adopt it and train all employees and volunteers in its use. If you attended ComAcademy 2005 you probably heard a bit about NIMS and that we, as hams must be trained in its application if we want to participate in e-com. missions.

What is NIMS?

This system will provide a consistent nationwide approach for Federal, State, and local governments to work effectively and efficiently together to prepare for, respond to, and recover from domestic incidents, regardless of cause, size, or complexity. To provide for interoperability and compatibility among Federal, State, and local capabilities, the NIMS will include a core set of concepts, principles, terminology, and technologies covering the incident command system; multiagency coordination systems; unified command; training; identification and management of resources (including systems for classifying types of resources); qualifi-

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Personal Profile

By
Peter Smith, N7BYP

This month our personal profile focuses on George Boswell, K7YHB. I enjoyed a pleasant visit with George in his shack located in the basement of his home where he lives with his wife Suzie in north Seattle. They have three grown kids who live in the greater Seattle metropolitan area. Because of their antenna farms, I've discovered it's easy to locate hams once you're in their neighborhood. George was no exception as I noted a three band hf beam, a six meter beam, and a dual band uhf/vhf vertical on his house as I approached. Once settled in his shack, I asked George how he got his start in amateur radio. Like most of us, he was interested in electronics as a kid and became hooked on radio when his dad acquired a six meter transceiver. A shop teacher in school noticed George's radio interest and helped him get in contact with the hams at the Cascade radio club. It wasn't long before he earned his

novice ticket, KN7YHB in 1963, and eventually the upgrade to his current status as general class K7YHB.

George became aware of the Seattle ACS through our Monday evening radio nets. He turned in his application for ACS in 2001, just in time for the Nisqually earthquake. Now that's what I call good timing! During the time of the quake when long distance telephone communications were down, George was able to pass a considerable number of messages through the Salvation Army Team Emergency Communication Network (SATERN). The radio organizations to which George belong include the aforementioned SATERN and Seattle ACS as well as the ARRL. While we were talking about the ARRL, George noted that its website

provides an excellent resource for hams. I agree, if you haven't already done so, check it out!

If you look carefully in the background of the photo you'll see some of George's rigs and accessories that includes a Kenwood 2000 all band, all mode transceiver, a Kenwood 570 hf plus six meter transceiver, and a Heathkit 1000 watt linear amplifier. By the way, if any of you are in the market for a linear amplifier, check with George because he said he might be interested in selling his. George also has a Kenwood D700 uhf/vhf rig in his car. George has a great station setup at his QTH. Across from his radio table there's a fine electronic work area. There is also a library of past issues of QST going back almost thirty years.

I asked George about a National Radio Institute diploma I spotted on the wall of his shack and that prompted an interesting story. George has worked in various departments of the Boeing Company since 1967. During the seventies, he completed a course of study through NRI which eventually enabled him to move



Photo by Peter Smith, N7BYP

K7YHB at his station with net script

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2. Translation of requests for assistance into the ACS message format.
3. Sending and receiving messages between a field communication posts located at a community center and the Seattle EOC.
4. Setting-up, administering and operating a field communications post located outside and running on emergency power.
5. Some operators will have an opportunity to operate net control positions at the EOC; receiving and logging emergency messages.

Essential Information about the Exercise:

When: Saturday, May 14, 2005. Report to your post at 0900. The messaging will begin at 0930 and will conclude at or before 1130.

Where: We have designated seven (7) Seattle Parks & Recreation Community Centers as Field Communications Posts for this drill one in each of six ACS geographic service zones, except South-West where we have established two. **Please select the one closest to your home.** These centers and lead/training officers are: *(please the map on page 7 for location & ACS WEB site for address and site map)*

Loyal Heights CC—Bill Ehler

Magnolia CC—Dave Prince

Hiawatha CC—TBD

Southwest CC—Libe Napat

Ravenna Eckstein CC—George Boswell

Miller CC—Matt Thomas

Rainier Beach CC -Chris Osburn

ACS Com-Posts will be signed and located outside of the Community Centers – this is our practice. We can not count on these facilities being open or safe after a disaster. (most will likely be closed on May 14)

EOC Operators – We are building a team of operators to staff the EOC Communications Center. Lead training officers at the EOC for the event are Ned Worcester and Bill Dockstader. If you live or work close to the Bell Town area (*4th Ave and Battery*) and would like to volunteer for this post please contact me. mark.sheppard@seattle.gov

What to Bring: Bring your response kit aka *Jump-bag* containing what you would normally want with you e.g. food, water, radio, batteries, flashlight, etc. For more information search the WEB and ask at the training for future missions. Required items for the training: Pen/pencils, notebook/paper, clip board and your hand-held radio dual band preferred 2 meter/70 centimeter.

Please RSVP your intention to participate in the May 14 exercise by e-mailing: EO-CACS@seattle.gov ***Please include your name, call sign, e-mail, phone number and the community center or post where you will report.*** This event is open to all applicants and members – if you have not completed registration attend – we will register you for the day.

Check the WEB site and e-mail for any changes or updates.

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from aircraft and Minuteman Silo System upgrade parts assembly to the electronics and space areas of the company. George has enjoyed working on satellite launch equipment and other space projects including the Viking deep space probe. He is currently an aircraft inspector lead. Getting back to the NRI, since I have a personal interest in distance learning, I asked George if he had been satisfied with his NRI correspondence program. He replied that he was well satisfied and that he had recently completed another distance learning program, the ARRL's own level one and level two online emergency communications certification program.

When not on the radio, George enjoys carpentry and tinkering with electronics. His woodworking projects have included decks, cabinets, storage containers and wooden bowls. As I was preparing to leave I asked George what some of his favorite Seattle places were. He mentioned some of my favorites including the waterfront, the Pike Place Public Market, and the Imax Theater at the Pacific Science Center. George has demonstrated his commitment to emergency communications by becoming deeply involved with ACS. You'll find him regularly at our meetings, on our nets, at the Communications Academies, as well as at the recent recruiting meetings. Thanks, George, for all you contribute to our ACS and to emergency communications in general.

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Communications Academy 2005 a Big Success!

By Peter Smith, N7BYP

Communications Academy 2005 was held Saturday and Sunday, April 2 and 3 at the Shoreline Conference Center. The keynote speaker on Saturday was William (Bill) Lokey, the FEMA region X administrator who spoke on "Communicating in the new world of Homeland Security." A number of concurrent sessions followed covering a wide variety of topics of interest to emergency communicators.

The Sunday keynoter was Professor Peter Anderson, VE7PSA, Director of Telematics Research at Simon Fraser University. Professor Anderson described the design and operation of an advanced mobile emergency communications vehicle that demonstrated its value during recent wild fires in British Columbia. As on Saturday, numerous concurrent sessions followed, again offering a good selection of topics for emergency communications.

Several mobile communications vans were on display and hams had opportunities to share experiences throughout the conference and especially during the lunch period of both days. Thanks to those who served on the planning committee including Ann Werner N7YDY, Kirk Bellar N7UK, Libe Napat, KB7WCE, Pete Smith N7BYP, Bruce Miller KC7IAY, Bob Preston W7TSQ, Ned Worcester, Terry Dettman WX7S, and Mark Sheppard N7LYE. Special thanks to Marina Zuetell N7LSL, for heading up the planning team and producing another highly successful emergency communications academy.

An ACS Photo Album



Photo by Peter Smith, N7BYP

Recruiting at Queen Anne



Photo by Peter Smith, N7BYP

CommAcademy 2005



Photo by Peter Smith, N7BYP

ACS Leadership Planning Meeting



Photo by Mark Sheppard N7LYE

Communications Van at Connecticut TOPOFF 3

May 14 ACS-SDART Locations

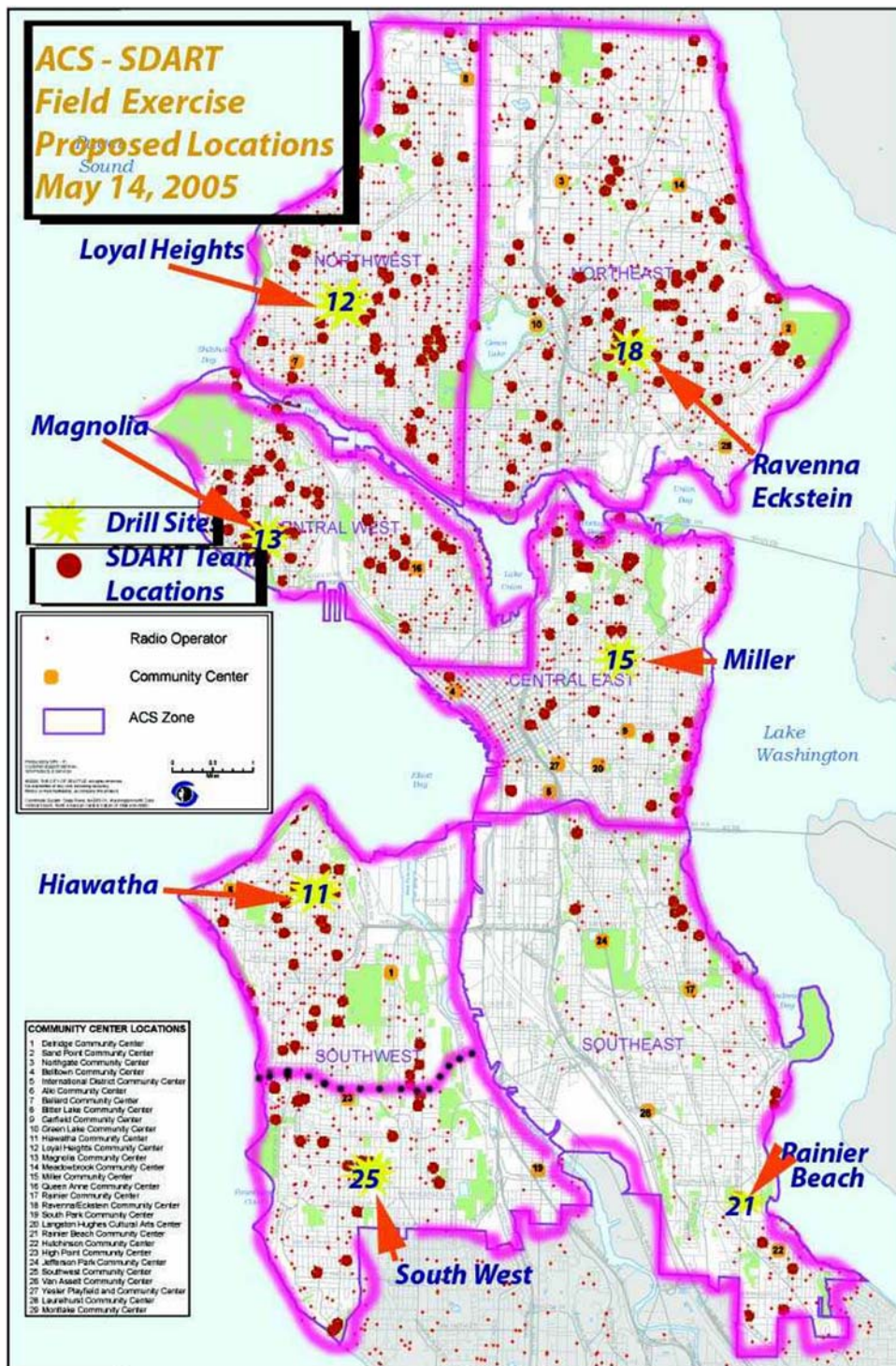
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cations and certification; and the collection, tracking, and reporting of incident information and incident resources. (From HLS NIMS Document)

I was assigned to the New London National Guard Armory which was the site of the Unified Command Post or UCP. This is the command structure called for in NIMS when an event escalates in size and complexity beyond what can be effectively managed by the incident command structure at the event site. At that point a unified command complex is established away from the scene to bring together resources and functions from the involved jurisdictions/agencies. The UCP is formed much like our EOC where space is established to accommodate functions e.g. operations, planning, logistics, etc. and agencies assign their staff and resources accordingly.

Amateur radio was well represented in the exercise and I had the opportunity to talk with several officials of the Connecticut ARES who were in-service to the event. I was very impressed with their high level of pre-event preparedness and the respect they had earned from the public safety and emergency management officials. I spent time



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with David Hyatt, K1DAV DEC for CT District 5. He explained how ARES fit into the state and local plan and also showed me their deployment/resource notebooks. Apparently, ARES earned its stripes through service – most recently they were able to deliver when phone and police radio failed due to a prolonged attach of ice storms which devastated the power grid and communications. I also talked with Chuck Rexroad, AB1CR SEC for Connecticut. On my way out the building I ran into Dan Miller, K3UFG unloading a Red Cross food wagon. Dan,

from ARRL HQ, had been at our CommAcademy earlier that week. I am very impressed with many of the practices and organizational innovations that CT ARES has initiated and seems to be carrying out in a productive manner. I think it will be in our interest to engage in a structured information exchange with these folks – perhaps bringing a representative out as part of next years CommAcademy? More on this later.

TOPOFF-3 was a great learning opportunity and I am in the process of writing up my more detailed reflections.

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ought to do that too, but you may also forget details that are fresh in mind right after the drill.

A number of experiments in learning have demonstrated learning is much more effective with appropriate feedback. Review sessions immediately following an exercise as well as more formal debriefing sessions later on can contribute to appropriate feedback. Your written notes written immediately following a drill will help make debriefings more valuable. Your notes are definitely a sound investment as you continue to develop and refine your skills as an emergency communicator.

QRV? - Seattle ACS

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